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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,339	09/16/2003	Shigeki Sato	1232-5153	4127
27123	7590	09/13/2005	EXAMINER	
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P. 3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER NEW YORK, NY 10281-2101			PERKEY, WILLIAM B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2851	

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/664,339	SATO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	William B. Perkey	2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4, 6-9, 11-16 and 18-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-4, 6-9, 11-16, 18-21, 23 and 25 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 22, 24 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 22, 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kinba et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,597,999).

Kinba et al. discloses a camera system in Fig. 5 having a focus lens 14 mounted on the camera 13; a first focus detection unit is disclosed as elements 3 and 4 in Fig. 1 and a second focus detection unit as element 7; and a controller is disclosed as the microcomputer 19 in Fig. 5. Reference is made to Fig. 6 for a discussion of the claimed functions of the controller. In Fig. 6 a target driving amount of the focusing lens based on a result of the first focus detection unit (3,4) is fairly suggested by steps 3 and 5. In step 3 a defocus amount is calculated based on the phase difference focus detector and the lens is driven that amount in step 5. After the lens driving of step 5, a second drive control to drive the focus lens based on a result of the second focus detection unit (by element 7 in step 6) is performed in step 9. The controller 19 switches from the first driving control (step 5) to the second driving control (step 9) after the driving amount of the first driving control of step 5 becomes the predetermined amount of zero. Although, the exact words target driving amount and remaining driving amount of zero are not actually used in the written description of Kinba et al., the disclosure fairly suggests to the ordinary workman in the art that the lens is driven to a position corresponding to the determined

defocus amount calculated in step 5, before performing the defocus amount calculation by the second focus detecting unit calculating a defocus amount based on contrast detecting method, in order to ensure that the lens is within the range of being able to detect the defocus amount by the contrast detecting method. Thus, claims 22, 24 and 26 are fully met.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-16, 18-21, 23 and 25 are allowed.

Telephone Numbers

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William B. Perkey, whose telephone number is (571) 272-2126. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



William B. Perkey
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2851

WBP:wbp